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1985 has been a year of growth and of challenge for the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. We have implemented a number of exciting programs, moved our offices, and become more highly visible than in the past.

On January 17, 1985, the Fortieth Anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance into the Gulag, we marked the day in conjunction with Wallenberg Committees in thirteen other countries and across the United States. Our Committee suggested to all other committees that as the hour of noon was struck, bells should be rung forty times, once for each year that Raoul Wallenberg has suffered imprisonment in the Soviet Union.

In New York City, the ceremony was held at City Hall under the auspices of Mayor Edward I. Koch. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Then United Nations Ambassador, was the keynote speaker for the commemoration. In addition to the Ambassador, Mayor Koch, Swedish Consul General Magnus Faxen, United States Congressman Bill Green, Assemblyman Alan Hevesi and Rachel Oestreicher Hassel spoke. Afterwards, we all moved into the Rotunda where we were joined by members of Raoul's family, Committee members, and other dignitaries, each of whom struck a bell - once for each of Raoul's forty years in prison. It was an extremely moving event, particularly as we all knew that we were being joined by others around the world in repeating this ceremony.

A Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg was held on March 14, 1985. This was the largest and most important event of 1985 for this Committee. The Tribute, which both honored Raoul and raised funds to help continue the work of the Committee, was to have taken place at The New York Public Library. We had anticipated that there would be about four hundred guests. Instead, under the chairmanship of Alan C. Greenberg and Lena Biorck Kaplan, the Tribute grew to twelve hundred guests, and we had to move to the Sheraton Centre Hotel. It was a major and extraordinary event that very much befitted the honor that we wished to have paid to Raoul Wallenberg.

Peter Jennings was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The honoree was Raoul, himself, and the speakers included Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Swedish film stars Bibi Andersson and Max von Sydow, Former Ambassador Per Anger and Elie Wiesel. Included in the program were Swedish pianist Staffan Scheja, survivors Susan Tabor, Agnes Adachi, Edith Wohl Ernster (Concertmaster of the Stockholm Symphony Orchestra) and Victor Aitay (Concertmaster and First Violinist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra), The Senior Chorus of the Raoul Wallenberg School (P.S. 194K) in Brooklyn, New York; and most importantly, Nina Lagergren, Raoul Wallenberg's sister. A brief portion of the NBC/Paramount mini-series, WALLENBERG: A HERO'S STORY, was previewed at the Tribute.

On March 16, 1985, the exhibition that The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States brought over from England opened at The New York Public Library. This exhibition, also called A Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg was first opened in 1982 at the Church of St. Martins in the Fields in London, by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Since coming to the United States it has been exhibited at The New York Public Library; the Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota; the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (where it was one of the focal points of the induction of the Class of 1935, Wallenberg's class, into the Emeritus Club); and at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, New Jersey, where the exhibition closed out the year. In 1986, it will continue to travel

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across the United States and Canada. If you have a group who is interested in sponsoring the Exhibition in your community, please contact us here at The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. We shall send you information concerning the size, costs, etc.

On July 1, 1985, The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States became a fully independent organization. Our new landlord is The American-Scandinavian Foundation. This wonderful organization, which is celebrating its own Seventy-fifth Anniversary this year, has managed to find space for us in their beautiful building on East 73rd Street in New York City. We value this closeness with the Scandinavian Community, which has been so supportive of our work. We also want to take note of the many years of help and support that were given to us by The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Their concern and generosity over many years has helped to make our independence a reality. We are fortunate to have so many good and supportive friends.

Because of the funds that were raised as a result of the Tribute in March, we have been able to implement several very important programs. We have given a gift of \$25,000.00 to The New York Public Library for the formation of The Raoul Wallenberg Collection. This collection, which will be a part of the Library's already extensive World War II Collection, will contain all of the Library's documents that have thus far been released by the Swedish Foreign Ministry. There are approximately one hundred and forty thousand pages of information and testimony pertaining to Raoul Wallenberg. These are contained in forty-six volumes which have been donated to the Library by the Swedish Government. Some of the funding will be used to translate many of the more important papers which are presently in Swedish, German, Hungarian, Russian, etc. I am certain that the Library will also round out its Wallenberg bibliography, which has grown with each successive year. There has been some confusion about the physical set-up of this Collection. There will not be a separate room or structure housing this collection, but these important materials will soon be available for use by scholars, students, and all who are interested in the story of Raoul Wallenberg and his great heroism.

In April we made a proposal to the Swedish Fulbright Commission that a joint Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States/Swedish Fulbright Commission Post-Doctoral Fellowship be given to a Swedish post-doctoral candidate who would be interested in working on the materials that are being given to the New York Public Library. Out of this research would come guidance for the Collection and an original work that would be on a very scholarly level. The fellowship proposal was accepted several weeks ago by the Commission in Sweden. There will be someone from the Swedish Raoul Wallenberg Committee on the final Selection Committee, and there is great excitement on both sides of the Atlantic about this joint activity. The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States will contribute \$10,000.00 towards the Fellowship, and the Swedish Fulbright Commission will contribute an equal amount. We shall work closely with the Swedish Consulate here in New York, so that our visiting scholar will have a totally rewarding and productive experience.

As many of you already know, a large part of our program is educational. We are extremely proud of the fact that since April, we have sent out over two-thousand information packets on Raoul Wallenberg and on our work. These packets have been sent without any charge to whomever has requested them. They have been sent to about 1,500 school children, all of whom wish to know more about Raoul Wallenberg. This is a program that we are particularly proud of.

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On November 6th, we had a small showing for a Swedish artist, Annika Wallenberg, who is married to a cousin of Raoul's. This tiny fundraiser was fully underwritten by both members of our board and the artist. The enormous generosity that the name, Raoul Wallenberg, engenders is indeed one of the most heartwarming parts of this work.

During the last year, Raoul Wallenberg has been honored in a number of different ways. On March 15th, the New York City Council passed a resolution naming the sidewalk directly across from and fronting the entire United Nations The Raoul Wallenberg Walk. In Washington, D.C. a bill introduced by Senator Carl Levin, was passed, which re-names the street fronting the site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Raoul Wallenberg Place. On Long Island New York a part of a highway has also been named for Raoul Wallenberg. I think that all of us would agree that these honors are appropriate and well deserved.

This Committee coordinated a national effort to have President Reagan bring-up the Wallenberg case at the Geneva Summit in November. The White House and the State Department received thousands of personal letters from throughout the United States, as well as a number from other countries. We intend to make certain that our government is completely aware of the building interest in Raoul Wallenberg. We shall not allow the honor bestowed upon him by Congress and signed by the President to be an empty one. So many owe so much to this extraordinary hero.

In Sweden, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Sten Andersson, has just appointed a Special Ambassador to research the Raoul Wallenberg documents and oversee the case. This new Special Ambassador, Mr. Rune Nyström, is a former ambassador to East Berlin and has served two tours of duty in Moscow. We shall be watching Sweden with renewed interest in the months to come. We do know that Prime Minister Olaf Palme laid a wreath at Raoul Wallenberg Platz in Budapest when he was there on a State Visit last summer. He also issued a statement on Wallenberg on January 17, 1985, to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of Raoul's disappearance. We feel that there are definite indications of a change in the Swedish political climate that surrounds this case. During the past year I have met with both Ambassador Wilhelm Wachtmeister in Washington, D.C. and with the Permanent Undersecretary of State, Mr. Pierre Schori, when he visited the United States. I am of the hope that we can look forward to more vigorous action on the highest levels from the present government.

On January 16, 1986, The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of Greater Philadelphia and The New Jersey Wallenberg Committee participated in a joint vigil in Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell. Dr. Vera Goodkin, who was saved by Raoul Wallenberg, read an open letter to President Reagan. Rachel Oestreicher Hasep spoke, as the representative of the national committee. Both Leona Feldman, Chairman of the Philadelphia Committee and Stewart Warren, of New Jersey who coordinated and planned this moving event, deserve warm thanks.

On January 17th a Prayer Vigil was held at the Swedish Seamen's Church in New York City to mark the 41st Anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance into the Soviet gulag. Pastor Evert Olson conducted the vigil. This was co-sponsored by The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States.

In Sweden the Raoul Wallenberg Committee had a ceremony and prayer service at Stockholm's Cathedral, Storkyrkan. The program which Raoul Wallenberg's sister, Mrs. Nina Lagergren, helped to develop and participate in, included singer Sylvia Lindenstrand and Liberal Party Chairman, Bengt Westerberg, who was the main speaker.

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Former Ambassador Per Anger, who is visiting Canada during the month of January, spoke in Edmonton on January 17th on the subject of Raoul Wallenberg. The University of Alberta is in the process of making a training film on teaching about Wallenberg. Mr. Anger's speech will be included in that film. One other bit of very wonderful and exciting news from Canada, is that Raoul Wallenberg has been named Canada's very first Honorary Canadian Citizen. This honor was awarded Mr. Wallenberg on December 10, 1985, Human Rights Day in Canada. We hope that this great honor will be a further spearhead to international action on Raoul Wallenberg's behalf.

Let me report that our own Speaker's Bureau continues to be extremely active. Our speakers have gone to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Texas, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, D.C.; Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and of course New York.

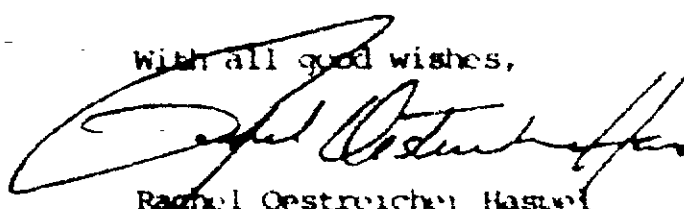
All in all, 1985 has been a year of progress and of growth for The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States. We are pleased with the strides forward that we have made, but we continue to be frustrated that we do not, in fact, have a Raoul Wallenberg to save Raoul Wallenberg. I, in my capacity as President of the Committee, have spent quite a bit of time this year talking to many persons in all branches of government. We have built broad based support in both Houses of Congress, and that is extremely important. I have also spent some time at the State Department, and what I can report of these conversations is that quiet diplomacy on many levels is part of this case. Letters to the Secretary of State and to the White House, as well as to your own congressional leaders remain an important part of this effort. This is not something that we can do; only you, our friends and members can do this for Raoul Wallenberg. Give him a little of your time during this coming year.

I would like to add that we have just finished reading a new novel entitled: Safe Houses by Lynne Alexander, which uses part of Raoul's character and his story in a fictional way. This is a form of fiction called "magical realism". There is a lot of information, as well, in this book; and we highly recommend it.

Please remember that your 1986 membership dues are due. Enclosed you will find a folder that should be filled out and returned. We are very much dependent on these yearly tax-deductible contributions for the continuation of our work.

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With all good wishes,


Rachel Oestreicher Haspel
President

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